

## Rome: From Village to Empire Part 1

### Supplement to Lecture: Key Terms and Definitions

#### Roman Religion:

##### Household Spirits

**Laures:** guarded the household; embodiment of the family's ancestors; represented continuity within the family

**Laures Compitales:** the Laures' urban counterparts; guardians of the intersections of the roads

**Penates:** watched over household goods, stores, food; symbolized spiritual element in a family's everyday needs

**Vesta:** goddess of the hearth (fire was essential for a Roman family)

Vesta of the home's hearth becomes Vesta of the hearth and fire of Rome (fire symbolizes Rome's permanence)

**Janus:** the door spirit (the door represented a home's security)

Janus becomes the guardian of the city's gates

##### Spirits Outside the Household

**Flora:** represented flowering plants

**Pomona:** represented fruit trees

**Ceres:** represented grain

**Tellus/Terra Mater:** earth deity

**Jupiter:** sky god of weather

Jupiter becomes the head of the Roman pantheon

**Mars:** god who protected crops from blight and cattle from disease

Mars becomes the god of war as Rome becomes an urban city

##### Organization of Priesthoods

- **pontifices:** 16; headed by the *pontifex maximus* (chief priest); *pontifices'* duties included organizing the religious calendar and presiding over public religious ceremonies
- **augeres:** 16, watched for and interpreted signs from the gods; consulted when a public decision was to be made
- **haruspices:** had powers of divination through signs and omens (Etruscan practice)
- **Vestal Virgins:** 6, drawn from prominent patrician families; served 30 years; forbidden from marrying or engaging in sexual intercourse under penalty of being buried alive
- **Fetiales:** appealed to the gods for peace and war

Roman Religion was not a practice bound to rules, formulas, and tradition; represented balance:

- balance between authentic and imitation
- balance between divine unity and unity of political community
- balance between conservatism and innovation
- balance between toleration and control
- balance between private worship and public worship, the use of public ceremonies

**Rome's Development:**

**consul:** there were two; they were heads of state; elected annually; exercised *imperium*

***imperium:*** power once wielded by the king

**senate:** august body of members who held life tenure

**centuriate assembly:** an assembly of the people; derived its name from the people being organized into voting groups called "centuries"; elected public officials; appealed legislation; passed judgment in capital cases

***gens* (sg) / *gentes* (pl):** kinship groups; the basis of Roman society

each *gens*:

- descended from a common ancestor
- practiced its own religious rites
- conducted its own communal jurisdiction
- possessed its own array of dependents and clients

**patricians:** originated from the great *gentes*; class represented the privileged, landed nobility that originated under the monarchy

**plebians (plebs):** the rest of the Roman populace

***lex Hortensia:*** gave plebiscites the force of law (*lex*)

**plebiscites:** resolutions passed in the plebian assembly

***secessio:*** basic meaning was "work stoppage"; specifically, *secessio* was when the plebs withdrew and met up on a hill and established their own body; they supposedly claimed they would only rejoin the republic when their demands were met; 3 major secessions and 2 suspect secessions in Roman history

**Tribune of the Plebs:** representative of the plebs; positions created in 494 B.C.E.

**Twelve Tables:** Rome's first law code; assured that patricians could not invent regulations to serve their own ends

**Roman Expansion:**

***foedus Cassianum:*** recognized Rome and the Latin League as equals

**Latin League:** loose alliance of 30 Latin states (Latin states are early communities in Latium)

***ius Latii:*** "Latin Rights"—the duties and private rights of Roman citizenship granted to the Latin states

***civitas sine suffragio:*** "city without the right to vote"; this phrase describes the Latin states' rights

***socii:*** partners of the Romans; *socii* concluded defensive pacts with Rome; the treaties' terms varied according to individual circumstances

**Pyrrhus:** King of Epirus; introduced Rome to armies (and elephants) and diplomacy of the Hellenistic world

**Hannibal:** son of Hannibal Barca; Hannibal was Rome's most formidable foe; recalled to Carthage 202 B.C.E. after Scipio Africanus invaded

**Scipio Africanus:** wrested Spain from Hannibal; invaded North Africa; gained important and symbolic victory there

**Scipio Aemelianus:** grandson of Scipio Africanus; subdued Spain at the Battle of Numantia

***amicitia:*** friendship; Rome's relationships of *amicitia* had no binding force but rather mutual moral obligation

6 provinces in the West by 133 B.C.E.

Sicily, Sardinia, the two Spains (Hispania Ulterior and Hispania Ceterior), Macedon, Africa